

COCKED HAT

CORNER FORTY-FIFTH STREET AND TROOST AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI





# History of Bowling and Billiards



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History  
*of*  
Bowling and Billiards

*Compiled by*

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*and*

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“In Play there are two pleasures  
for your choosing—  
The one is winning and the  
other—losing.”

*Byron, from “Don Juan.”*





PLAYING AT BOWLS

*Copy David Tenier, 1610*





*Dedicated to*

Our Beloved Husbands

MALCOLM DORION

*and*

ERLE G. SHEPHERD

In appreciation of their vision and the energy with which they worked to establish a place worthy of the game today—

*and*

to all lovers of the game, including those of the mother countries in times past—both Kings and Queens and Peasants.

Also to the bowlers of the American Bowling Congress (International).



## THE BOWLER'S CREED

To bowl a line or more each day,  
To keep me fit for work and play,  
To take what comes, a spare or strike,  
And cling to hope with all my might.  
I'll do my best and let that stand  
The record of my brain and hand,  
And then should splits be mine to take  
I'll practice more; I'll concentrate.

J. A. S.



D. KERR

Rip Van Winkle, so the story goes,  
Wound his way into the mountains  
In surcease of his woes.  
Another traveler halted him,  
Weighed down with cask of wine;  
And together as they traveled  
He could hear from time to time  
A distant roll—like thunder—  
And it caused him some to wonder.  
But soon they came upon a hollow;  
And a sight 'twas queer to see;  
Of men in curious costumes  
Playing with bowls three—  
They were playing a game of nine-pins,  
Since then 'twas changed to ten,  
The history and our story  
Will tell you how, why, and when.

L. C. D.

## INTRODUCTION

There are some no doubt who are familiar with much of the interesting facts of the history of bowling, but to the enthused lovers of the game today, because of the hurry and bustle of our present, modern times, we feel much of this intensely interesting history of the game is unknown, and so we hope this word-sketch together with pen drawings will explain much to the Bowler, who loves the game and who would rather "bowl than eat," but never the less who wonders, as does the poet in "The Lorelei" and "Knows not what spell doth bind him"—for there is no other game of such general appeal to all nations, one which has survived through persecution and suppression, through eight centuries of which history gives so graphic an account.

Neither has any game been so a part of the people—of their history—of their laws; and the inspiration in its art and literature to such famous men as David Tenier (in his famous painting, "Playing at Bowls" now in the Scottish National Galleries, Edinburgh), and Washington Irving's incorporation of it into his much beloved story of Rip Van Winkle; most interesting of the Old Dutch legends of the Kaatskill Mountains, which are so immersed in legendary myths that none can traverse without being hypnotized and carried away by the mystic charm of their lore into legendary spheres where soft grey mists hang low

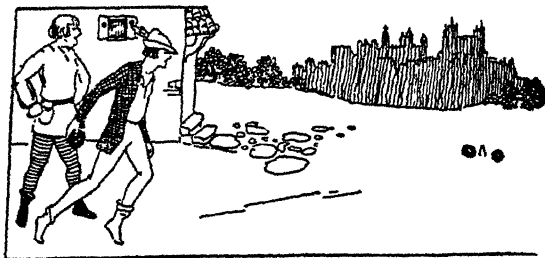
and purple shades lure us on—and on—into deep ravines to mountain peaks and gorges—a veritable land of fairy ways in the midst of which winds the trail of Rip Van Winkle, and in this land so real the legend seems that close in his wake one needs must follow, when, lo, the distant rumbling of a storm—

But no; 'tis the sound heard by Rip Van Winkle—  
The "little men playing their game of Nine Pins."

\* \* \*

To those who enjoy this game we hope its charm may be enhanced by its antiquity, its early picturesqueness, and the tenacity with which those of other days have clung to and brought it through its ages and many phases to the healthy, enjoyable game played by all, in its present refined environment of today.





## Playing at Bowls

From the earliest times, men have engaged in various forms of more or less highly organized play activity.

Athletic contests, whether for amusement and recreation or as a means of training for the serious pursuits of life, have always been highly valued.

Games of chance and of intellectual skill are also of very ancient origin—the most popular of these being the game of bowls and billiards.

Bowls, the oldest British outdoor pastime next to archery, is still in vogue. It has been traced certainly to the thirteenth and conjecturally to the twelfth century.

William Fitzstephen (1190) in his biography of Thomas Beckett, gives a graphic sketch of the London of his day, and writing of the summer amusements of the young men says, that in holidays they were exercised in leaping, shooting, wrestling, casting of stones, and throwing of javelins fitted with loops for the purpose which

they strived to fling before the mark; they also used bucklers like fighting men.

It is commonly supposed by casting of stones Fitzstephen meant the game of bowls, but though it is possible that round stones may sometimes have been employed in an early variety of the game, and there is a record of iron bowls being used, though at a much later date on festive occasion at Nairn, nevertheless the inference seems unwarranted.

The casting of stones of which he speaks was probably more akin to the modern "putting the weight," once even called "putting the stone." It is beyond dispute however, that the game at any rate in a rudimentary form was played in the thirteenth century.

A museum scripture of that period in the Royal Library, Windsor, (No. 20 E IV) contains a drawing, representing two players aiming at a small cone instead of an earthenware ball or jack. Another museum scripture of the same century has a picture, crude but spirited, which brings us in close touch with the existing game.

These figures are introduced and a jack. The first player's bowl has come to rest just in front of the jack; the second has delivered his bowl and is following after it with one of those eccentric contortions, still not unusual on modern greens; the first player meantime making a repressive gesture with his hand, as if to urge the bowl to stop short of his game. The third player is depicted as in the act of delivering his bowl.

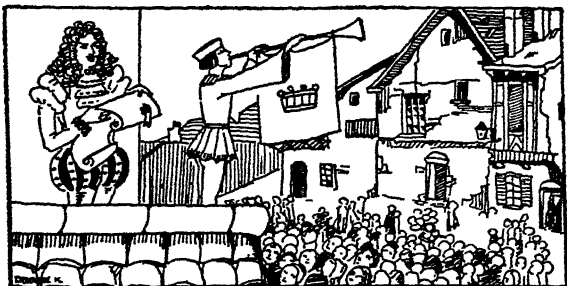
A fourteenth century museum scripture book of prayers in the Francis Douce collection in the

Bodleian Library at Oxford contains a drawing in which two persons are shown, but they bowl to no mark.

Strutt (Sports and Pastimes) suggests that the first player's bowl may have been regarded by the second player as a species of jack; but in that case it is not clear what was the first player's target.

In these three earliest illustrations of the pastime, it is worth noting that each player has one bowl only, and that the position in delivering it was as various five or six hundred years ago as it is today.

In the third he stands about upright; in the first he kneels; in the second he stoops half way between the upright and the kneeling position.



## Proclamation Forbidding Bowls By King Edward III.

As the game grew in popularity it came under the ban of king and parliament, both fearing it might jeopardize the practice of archery, then so important in battle. Statutes forbidding it were then enacted in the reign of Edward III, Richard II, and other monarchs.

The discredit attaching to bowling alleys, first established in London in 1455, probably encouraged subsequent repressive legislation, for many of the alleys were connected with taverns frequented by the dissolute and gamesters.

The word "bowls" occurs for the first time in the statute of 1511 in which Henry VIII confirmed previous enactments against the unlawful games. By a further act of 1541—which was not repealed until 1845—artificers, laborers, apprentices, servants and the like were forbidden to play bowls at any time save Christmas, and then only in their master's house and presence.

It was further enjoined that anyone playing



*"'Twill make me think the world is full of rubs,  
and that my fortune runs against the bias."*

bowls outside of his own garden or orchard was liable to a penalty of 6s or 8d; while those possessed of lands of the yearly value of one hundred pounds might obtain licenses to play on their own private greens. But though the same statute absolutely prohibited bowling alleys, Henry VIII had them constructed for his own pleasure at Whitehall Palace, and was wont to back himself when he played.

In Mary's reign in 1555 the licenses were withdrawn, the queen or her advisers deeming the game an excuse for "unlawful assemblies, conventicles, seditious and conspiracies."

The scandals of the bowling alleys grew rampant in Elizabethan London, and Stephen Gosson, in his "School of Abuse" (1579), says: "Common bowling alleys are privy moths that eat up the credit of many idle citizens, whose gains at home are not able to weigh down their losses abroad, whose shops are far from maintaining their play, that their wives and children cry out for bread, that they go to bed supperless often in a year."

Biased bowls were introduced in the sixteenth century. "A little altering of the one side," says Robert Ricorde, the mathematician, in his "Castle of Knowledge" (1556), "maketh the bowl to run *biasse waies*," and Shakespeare (Richard II, Act III, Scene IV) causes the queen to remonstrate, in reply to her ladies' suggestion of a game at bowls to relieve the ennui, "'Twill make me think the world is full of rubs, and that my fortune runs against the bias." This passage is interesting also as showing that women were accustomed to playing the game in those days.



## The King and the Bishop Bowl

It is pleasant to think that there is foundation for the familiar story of Sir Francis Drake playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe as the Armada was beating up channel, and finishing his game before attacking the Spaniards.

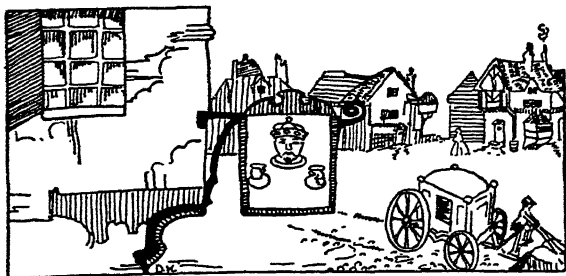
When John Knox visited Calvin at Geneva one Sunday it is said that he discovered him engaged in a game, and John Aytmer (1521 to 1594), though Bishop of London, enjoyed a game of a Sunday afternoon.

The pastime found favor with the Stuarts. In the book of Sports (1618) James I. recommended a moderate indulgence to his son, Prince Henry, and Charles I. was an enthusiastic bowler. Unfortunately, encouraging by example, wagering and playing for high stakes, habits that ultimately brought the green into a general disrepute as the alley.

It is recorded that the king occasionally visited Richard Shute, a Turkey merchant who owned a beautiful green at Barking Hall, and that after one "bout" his losses were one thousand pounds. He was permitted to play his favorite game to beguile the tedium of his captivity.



*The Bishop Enjoys a Game*



## A Broadminded Puritan

The signboard of a wayside inn nearing Goring Heath in Oxfordshire long bore a portrait of the king with couplets reciting how his majesty "drank from the bowl, and bowled for what he drank." During his stay at the North Hampshire village of Holdenby or Holmby, where Sir Thomas Herbert complains the green was not well kept, Charles frequently rode over to Lord Vaux's place at Harrowden, or to Lord Spencer's at Althorp for a game and, according to one account, was actually playing on the latter green when Cornet Joyce came to Holmby to remove him to the other quarters.

If the Puritans regarded bowls with no friendly eye, as Lord Macaulay asserts, one can hardly wonder at it. But even the Puritans could not suppress betting. So eminently respectable a person as John Evelyn thought no harm in bowling for stakes and once played at the Durdans near Epsom for ten pounds, winning match and money, as he triumphantly notes in his diary for the 14th of August, 1657.

Samuel Pepys repeatedly mentions finding "great people at bowls."



*Evelyn*



## Bowling as Early as 1299

Well into the nineteenth century the pastime acquired its popularity in Scotland and was considered much more than golf, the Scottish national game.

It has been known in Scotland since the close of the sixteenth century, but greens were few and far between. There is a record of a club in Haddington in 1709, of Tom Bicket's green in Kilmarnock in 1740, of greens in Candleriggs and Gallowgate, Glasgow, and of one in Larnark in 1750, of greens in the grounds of Heriot's hospital, Edinburgh, prior to 1768 and of one in Peebles in 1775.

These are, of course, mere infants compared with the South Hampton Lawn Bowling Club (founded in 1299), which still uses the green on which it has played for centuries and still possesses the quaint custom of describing its master, or president, as "sir"—and are younger even than the New Castle-on-Tyne Club, estab-



*Preparing the Mitchell Code of Laws*

lished in 1657. But the earlier clubs did nothing toward organizing the game.

In 1848 and 1849, however, when many clubs had come into existence to the west and south of Scotland (the Willowbank, dating from 1816 is the oldest club in Glasgow), meetings were held in Glasgow for the purpose of promoting a national association. This was regarded by many as impracticable, but a decision of final importance was reached when a consultative committee was appointed to draft a uniform code of laws to govern the game. This body delegated its functions to its secretary, W. W. Mitchell, who prepared a code that was immediately adopted in Scotland as the standard laws.

It was in this sense that the Scottish bowlers saved the game. They were, besides, pioneers, in laying down level greens of superlative excellence. Not satisfied with seed-sown grass or meadow turf, they experimented with seaside turf and found it admirable.

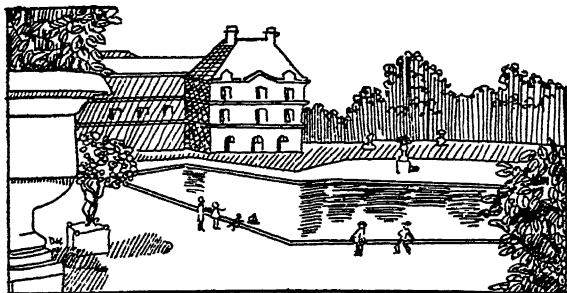


## All the World at Bowls

The thirteenth Earl of Eglinton also set an example of active interest which many magnates emulated. Himself a keen bowler, he offered for competition, in 1854, a silver bowl and the Eglinton Cup, all to be played for annually.

These trophies excited healthy rivalry in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire, and the enthusiasm as well as the skill with which the game was conducted in Scotland at length proved contagious. Clubs in England began to consider the question of legislation, and to improve their greens. Moreover, Scottish immigrants introduced the game wherever they went, and colonists in Australia and New Zealand established many clubs which, in the main, adopted the Mitchell laws; while clubs were also started in Canada and in the United States, in South Africa, India, Calcutta, Japan and Hongkong.

In Ireland the game took root very gradually but in Ulster, owing doubtless to constant intercourse with Scotland, such clubs as have been founded are strong in numbers and play.



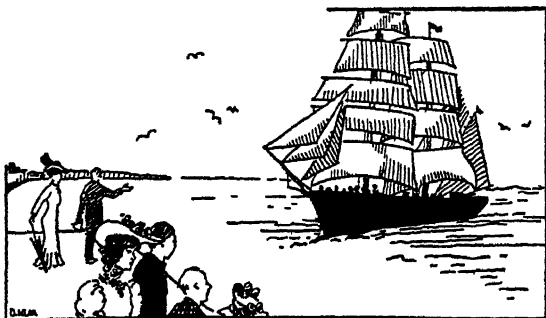
## Greens in the Garden of the Luxemburg Palace

On the European continent the game can scarcely be said to be played on scientific principles. It has existed in France since the seventeenth century. When John Evelyn was in Paris in 1644, he saw it played in the gardens of the Luxemburg Palace.

In the south of France it is rather popular with artisans who, however, are content to pursue it on any flat surface and used round instead of biased bowls, the bowlers, moreover, indulging in a preliminary run before delivering the bowl, after the fashion of a bowler in cricket.

A rude variety of the game occurs in Italy and as we have seen, John Calvin played it in Geneva where John Evelyn also noticed it in 1646. There is evidence of its vogue in Holland in the seventeenth century, for the painting of David Tenier's (1610-1690) in the Scottish National

Gallery at Edinburgh is wrongly described as "Peasants Playing at Skittles." In the picture three men are represented as having played a bowl, while the fourth is in the act of delivering his bowl. The game is obviously bowls, the sole difference being that an upright peg about four inches high is employed instead of a jack (the jack or kitty, as the white earthenware ball to which the bowler bowls is called, is round and two and one-half to two and three-fourths inches in diameter), and recalls in this respect the old English four of the game already mentioned.



## From Across the Seas in 1906

Serious efforts to organize the game were made in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, but this time the lead came from Australia.

The bowling associations of Victoria and New South Wales were established in 1880 and it was not until 1892 that the Scottish bowling association was founded. Then in rapid succession came several independent bodies: the Midland Counties, 1895; the London and Southern Counties, 1896; the Imperial, 1899, the English in 1903, and the Irish and Welch in 1904.

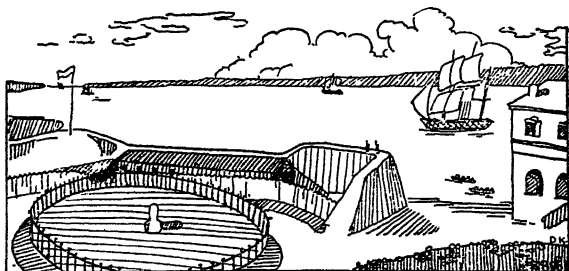
These institutions were concerned with the task of regularizing the game within the territories indicated by their titles, but it soon appeared that the multiplicity of associations was likely to prove a hindrance rather than a help, and with a view

therefore to reducing the number of clashing jurisdictions and bringing about the establishment of a single legislative authority, the Imperial amalgamated with the English Bowling Association in 1905.

The visits to the United Kingdom of properly organized teams of bowlers from Australia and New Zealand in 1901, and from Canada in 1904, demonstrated that the game had gained enormously in popularity.

The former visit was commemorated by the institution of the Australia Cup, presented to the Imperial Bowling Association (and now the property of the English Bowling Association) by Mr. Charles Wood, president of the Victorian Bowling Association. An accredited team of bowlers from the mother country visited Canada in 1906 and was accorded a royal welcome.

Perhaps the most interesting proof that bowls is a true "Volkespiel" is to be found in the fact that it has become municipalized in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere in Scotland; and in London, New Castle, and other English towns, the corporations have laid down greens in public parks and open spaces. In Scotland the public greens are self-supporting from a charge which includes the use of bowls of one penny per hour for each player. In London the upkeep of the greens falls on the rates but players must provide their own bowls.

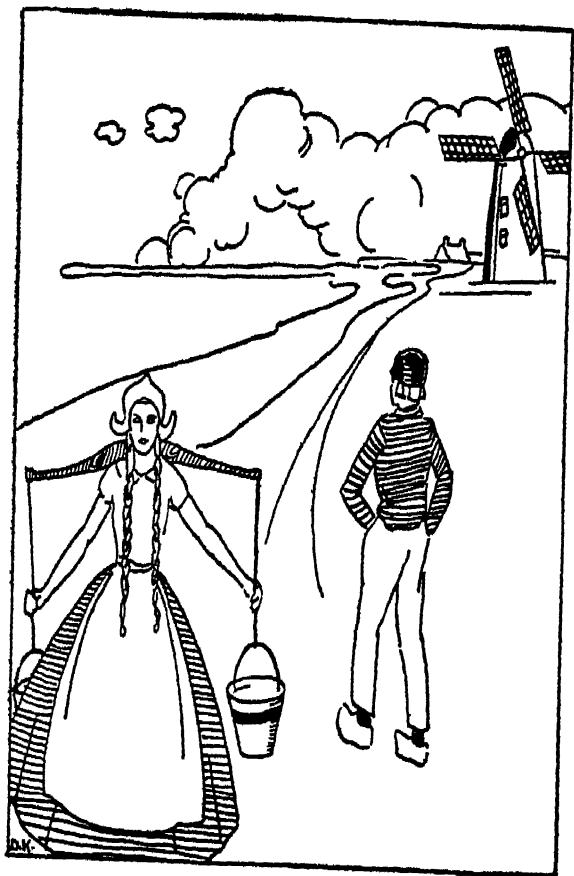


## Bowling Green, 1840

Bowling also has been played for centuries in Germany and the low countries, where it is still in high favor, but attains its greatest popularity in the United States whence it was introduced in Colonial times from Holland. The Dutch inhabitants of New Amsterdam, now New York, were much addicted to it and up to the year 1840 it was played on the greens, the principal resort of the bowlers being the square just north of the Battery, still called Bowling Green.

The first recorded indoor game on a covered alley took place in London in the twelfth century, and the first recorded match game was played on the Knickerbocker Alleys in New York City on January 1, 1840.

The tens of thousands of bowling clubs in the United States and Canada are under the jurisdiction of the American Bowling Congress, which was organized in 1900, and meets once a year to revise the rules and hold contests for the national championships.



*The Dutch in New Amsterdam in 1840*

The first tournament conducted under this organization was held in Chicago in 1901, having an entry of forty-one five-man teams; seventy-nine two-man teams; and one hundred and fifteen individual entries.

These tournaments have been held annually and the continuous increase in number of entries brought about an astounding comparison, which is evidenced by the number of bowlers from all parts of the United States who took part in the twenty-eighth annual American Bowling Congress tournament, which took place in Kansas City in 1928.

In this tournament Kansas City is recorded as having had the largest entries, there being two thousand two hundred and fifty-one five-man teams; two thousand two hundred and eighty two-man teams, and four thousand five hundred and seventy-one individuals.



## “How, Why, and When”

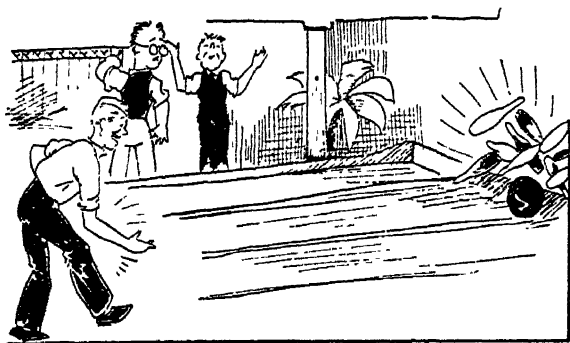
The first covered alleys were made of hardened clay or of slate, but those in vogue at present are built of strips of pine and maple wood about one by three inches in size, set on edge and fastened together and to the bed of the alley with the nicest art of the cabinet maker. The width of the alley is forty-one and one-half inches and its whole length about eighty feet. From the head or apex pin to the foul-line, over which the player must not step in delivering the ball, is sixty feet. On each side of the alley is a nine-inch gutter to catch any balls that are bowled wide.

Originally, nine pins set up in the diamond form were used, but during the first part of the nineteenth century the game of “nine pins” was prohibited by law on account of excessive betting connected with it. This ordinance, however, was soon evaded by the addition of the tenth pin, resulting in the game of “ten pins,” the pastime in vogue today.

The ten pins are set up at the end of the alley in the form of a right angle triangle in four rows, four pins at the back, then three, then two, and one as head pin. The back row is placed three inches from the alley's edge, back of which is the pin pit, which is ten inches deep and about three feet wide. The back wall is heavily padded (often with a heavy swinging cushion), and there are safety corners for the pin boys, who set up the pins and place the balls in a sloping "railway" which returns the ball to the player's end of the alley.

The pins are made of hard maple and fifteen inches high, two and one-quarter inches in diameter at their base and fifteen inches in circumference at their thickest point. The balls, which are made of hardwood, mostly made of *lignum vitae*, also mineralite, may be of any size not exceeding twenty-seven inches in circumference and sixteen and one-half pounds in weight. The balls are provided with holes for the thumb and finger or fingers.

As many play on a side as please, five being the number for championship teams, though this sometimes varies. Each player rolls two balls called a frame and ten frames constitute a game unless otherwise agreed upon.



## A Perfect Score

The object of the game is to bowl down all of the pins with one shot, the result being called a strike. A maximum of two shots is allowed in a frame, there being ten frames to a game. If all the pins are down after the second shot the result is a spare. After a strike, a number of pins bowled down by the next two balls is added to the ten already scored; after a spare the number falling from the next ball is added to the score. If in the tenth frame the player achieves a strike, he is allowed two additional shots; and if a spare, one additional shot. The maximum score possible for a single player is, therefore, three hundred, "a perfect score."

## “Cocked Hat” and Other Games

Several minor varieties of bowling are popular in America, among them being the “COCKED HAT,” a most interesting game, which is played with three pins, one in the head pin position and the others in each corner of the back row. The pins are usually a little larger than those used in the regular game and small balls are used. The maximum score is ninety, and all balls, even those going into the gutter, are in play.

“Cocked Hat and Feather” is similar, except that a fourth pin is added, placed in the center. Other variations of bowling are “Quintet,” in which five pins set up like an arrow pointed towards the bowler are used; “The Battle Game,” in which twelve can be scored by knocking down all but the center or king pin; “Head Pin and Four Back,” in which five pins are used, one in the head pin position and the rest on the back line; “Four Back,” “Five Back,” “Duck Pin,” “Head Pin,” with nine pins set up in the old-fashioned way and “Candle Pin,” in which thin pins tapering toward the top and bottom are used, the other rules being similar to those of the regular game.

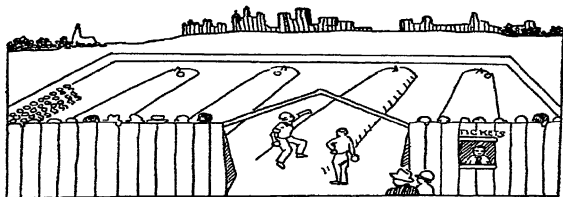
The American bowling game is played to a slight extent in Great Britain and Germany. In the latter country, however, the old-fashioned game of Nine Pins, “Kiegel Spiel,” with solid balls, and the pins set up diamond fashion obtains universally. The alleys are made with less care than the American, being cement, asphalt, slate or marble.



# BOWLS

*The  
Game  
And  
Greens*





## Gate Money Contests

The game of "Bowls" as previously spoken of is not as popular in this country at the present time as in the Colonial days. However, it is played extensively in Canada and European countries as a summer out-door game, and no doubt there are many who would be interested in knowing more about Bowls as played on the green. So for their information we are giving a brief resume of the game in the following:

There are two kinds of bowling greens, the level and the crown. The crown has a fall which amounts to as much as eighteen inches all around from the center to the sides. This type of green is confined almost wholly to certain of the northern and midland counties of England where it is popular for single-handed, gate-money contests. But although the crown-green game is of a sporting character, it necessitates the use of bowls of a narrow bias and affords but limited scope for the display of skill and science.

It is the game on the perfectly level green that constitutes the historical game of bowls. Subject to the rule as to the shortest distance to which the jack must be thrown (twenty-five

yards'), there is no prescribed size for the lawn, but forty-two yards square forms an ideal green.

The Queen's Park and Fitwood clubs in Glasgow have each three greens, and as they can quite comfortably play six rinks on each, it is not uncommon to see one hundred and forty-four players making their game simultaneously.

An undersized lawn is really a poor pitch, because it involves playing from corner to corner instead of up and down, the orthodox direction.

For the scientific construction of a green, the whole ground must be excavated to a depth of eighteen inches or so and thoroughly drained, and layers of different materials (gravel, cinders, moulds, silver sand) laid down before the final covering of turf.

Surrounding the green is a space called a ditch, which is nearly but not quite on a level with the green and slopes gently away from it, the side next to the turf being lined with boarding, the ditch itself bottomed with wooden spars resting on the foundation.

A green is divided into spaces usually from eighteen to twenty-one feet in width, commonly styled "rinks"—a word which also designates each set of players—and these are numbered in sequence on a plate fixed in the bank at each end opposite the center of the space.

The end ditch within the limits of the space is, according to Scottish laws, regarded as part of the green, a regulation which prejudices the general acceptance of those laws.

In match play each space is further marked off from its neighbor by thin string securely fastened flush with the turf.

## A Bias Bowl

Every player uses four "lignum vitae" bowls in single handed games and, (as a rule) in friendly games, but only two in matches. Every bowl must have a certain amount of bias, which was formerly obtained by loading one side with lead, but is now imparted by the turner making one side more convex than the other, the bulge showing the side of the bias.

No bowl must have less than Number 3 bias; that is, it should draw about six feet to a thirty-yard jack on a first-rate green; it follows that on an inferior green the bowler, though using the same bowl, would have to allow for a narrower draw. It is also a rule that the diameter of the bowl shall not be less than four and one-half inches nor more than five and one-quarter inches, and that its weight must not exceed three and one-half pounds.

On crown-greens it is customary to use a small biased wooden jack to give the bowler some clue to the run of the green. The bowler delivers his bowl with one foot on a mat or footer, made of India rubber or cocoanut fiber, the size of which is also prescribed by rule as twenty-four by sixteen inches, though, with a view to protecting the green, Australian clubs employ a much larger size, and require the bowler to keep both feet on the mat in the act of delivery.

In theory the game of bowls is very simple, the aim of the player being to roll his bowl so as to cause it to rest nearer to the jack than

his opponent's, or to protect a well-placed bowl, or to dislodge a better bowl than his own. But in practice there is every opportunity for skill.

On all good greens the game is played in rinks of four on a side, there being, however, on the part of many English clubs, still an adherence to the old-fashioned method of two and three a side rinks.

Ordinarily a match team consists of four rinks of four players each, or sixteen men in all. The four players in a rink are known as the leader, second player, third player and skip or driver, captain or director, and their positions, at least in matches, are unchangeable.

Great responsibility is thus thrown on the skip in the choice of his players, who are selected for well-defined reasons. The leader has to place the mat to throw the jack, to count the game and to call the results of each end or head to the skip who is at the other end of the green. He is picked for his skill in playing to the jack. It is, therefore, his business to "be up." There is no excuse for short play on his part, and his bowls would be better off the green than obstructing the path of the subsequent bowls. So he will endeavor to be "on the jack," the ideal position being a bowl at rest immediately in front or behind it.

The skip plays last, and directs his men from the end that is being played to. The weakest player in the four is invariably played in the

second place (the "soft second"). Most frequently he will be required either to protect a good bowl or to rectify a possible error of the leader. His official duty is to mark the game on the scoring card when the leader announces the results. He keeps a record of the play of both sides.

The third player, who does any measuring that may be necessary to determine which bowl or bowls may be nearest the jack, holds almost as responsible a position as the captain, whose place, in fact, he takes whenever the skip is absent as will already be understood by inference. Before he leaves the jack to play he must observe the situation of the bowls of both sides. It may be that he has to draw a shot with the utmost nicety to save the end, or even the match, or to lay a cunningly contrived block, or to "fire", that is, to deliver his bowl almost dead straight at the object, with enough force to kill the bias for the moment.

The score having been counted, the leader then places the mat, usually within a yard of the spot where the jack lay at the conclusion of the lead, and throws the jack in the opposite direction for a fresh end.

On small greens, play, for obvious reasons, generally takes place from each ditch. The players play in couples, the first on both sides, then the second, and so on. The leader having played his first bowl, the opposing leader will play his first, and so on.

As a rule, a match consists of twenty-one points or twenty-one ends (or a few more by agreement). Certain points in the play call for notice.

In throwing the jack, the leader is bound to throw (roll) a legal jack. A legal jack must travel at least twenty-five yards from the footer and not come to rest within two yards of either side boundary, but it may be thrown as far beyond this as the leader chooses, provided that it does not run within two yards of the end ditch or either side boundary.

In English practice the leader is entitled to a second throw if he fails to roll a legal jack at his first attempt; should he fail again, the right to throw passes to his opponent, but not the right of playing first.

On Scottish greens the leader has only a single throw. A legal jack should not be interfered with except by the course of play. Should the jack be driven toward the side boundary, it is legitimate for a player to cause his bowl to draw outside of the dividing string, provided that where it has ceased running it shall have come to rest entirely within his own space.

If it stops on the string, or outside of it, the bowl is "dead" and must be removed to the bank. A "toucher" bowl is a characteristic of the Scottish game to which great exception is taken by many English clubs. Should a bowl running jackwards touch the jack, however slightly, it is called a toucher and must be marked by the skip with a chalk cross as soon as it is at rest. Such a bowl

is alive until the end is finished, wherever it may be within the limits of the space. Even if it run into the ditch or be driven in by another bowl, it will yet count as alive. A bowl, however, that is forced on to the jack by another is not a toucher.

The feat of hitting the jack is so common that it really calls for no special reward. Difference of opinion prevails as to the condition of the jack after it has been driven into the ditch. According to Scottish rules, unless it has been forced clean out of bounds, such a jack is still alive. On most English greens it is a "dead" jack and the end void. Every bowler should learn both forehand and backhand play on the left. In forehand play the bowl as it courses to the jack describes its segment of a circle on the right, in backhand play on the left. In both styles the biased side must always be the inner.

In the United Kingdom the regular bowling season extends from May Day till the end of September or the middle of October. At its close the green must be carefully examined, weeds uprooted, worn patches returfed, and the whole laid under a winter blanket of silver sand.



# Billiards



## Billiards Dating From A. D. 148

Billiards, an indoor game of skill, played on a rectangular table, and consisting in the driving of small balls with a stick, called a "cue," either against one another or into pockets, according to the methods or rules described.

Of the origin of the game comparatively little is known, Spain, Italy, France, and Germany all being regarded as its original home by various authorities. In an American textbook, *Modern Billiards*, it is stated that Calkire More (Conn Cetchathoch), king of Ireland, who died A. D. 148, left behind him "fifty-five billiard balls of brass, with the pools and cues of the same material." The same writer refers to the travels of Anacharsis through Greece, 400 B. C., during which he saw a game analogous to billiards. French writers differ as to whether their country can claim its origin, though the name suggests this, while it is generally asserted that Henrique Divigne, an artist, who lived in the reign of Charles IX, gave form and rule to the pastime and ascribed its invention to the English.

Bouillet, in the first work, says: "Billiards appear to be derived from the game of bowls. It is anciently known in England, where perhaps it was invented. It is brought into France by Louis XIV, whose physician recommended this exercise." In the other work mentioned we read: "It would seem that the game was invented in England." It was certainly known and played in France in the time of Louis XI (1432-1483).

Strutt, in his "Sports and Pastimes of the People of England," considers it probable that it was the ancient game of "Pall-Mall" on a table instead of on the ground or floor, an improvement he says, "which answered two good purposes: it precluded the necessity of the player to kneel or stoop exceedingly when he struck the bowl (ball), and accommodated the game to the limits of a chamber."

Whatever its origin, and whatever the manner in which it was originally played, it is certain that it was known and played in the time of Shakespeare, who makes Cleopatra, in the absence of Anthony, write her attendant to join in the pastime:

"Let us to billiards; come, Charmoin."

—"*Anthony and Cleopatra*" (*Act II, Scene V*)  
Shakespeare.



*A Message to Charmoin*

In Cotton's Complete Gamester, published in 1674, we are told that this "most gentle, cleanly and ingenious game" was first played in Italy, though in another page he mentions Spain as its birthplace. At that date billiards must have been well enough known, for we are told that "for the excellency of the recreation, it is much approved of and played by most nations of Europe, especially in England, there being few towns of note therein which hath not a public billiard table, neither are they wanting in many noble and private families in the country."

The game was at one time played on a lawn like modern croquet. Some authorities consider that in this form it was introduced into Europe from the Orient by the Crusaders. The ball was rolled or struck with a mallet or cue (with the latter if Strutt's allusion to "Inconveniences" is correct) through hoops or rings, and these were reproduced for indoor purposes on a billiard table, as well as a "king" or pin which had to be struck.

In the original table, which was square, there was one pocket, a hole in the center of the table, as on a bagatelle table, the loop or ring being retained, then come similar pockets along one of the side cushions sunk in the bed of the table, and eventually the modern table was evolved, a true oblong or double square, with pockets opening in the cushions at each corner and in the middle of each long side. The English tables are of this type, small bags of netting being attached to the pockets. The French and Ameri-

can game of billiards is played on a pocketless table.

There are various rules and games of billiards as played by the English, French, and Americans, and for those interested in the purely mathematical aspect of the game, refer to Hemming's "Billiards Mathematically Treated" (published by MacMillan).

THE END











